

# 2009 SPPACE QUESTIONNAIRE

**Anthony Foxx  
Charlotte Mayoral**

1. **What are the top three issues our community needs to address? How would you propose to tackle these issues?**

Charlotte must (1) strengthen and diversify our job base by recruiting and retaining employers and expanding small business support, (2) improve quality of life throughout Charlotte with strong public safety, good infrastructure and neighborhood economic development and (3) build effective regional and state partnerships to improve transportation, economic development and environmental sustainability.

2. **Do you support the adoption and use of transfer taxes and/or impact fees as a way to overcome budget shortfalls? Why or why not?**

No. I would not adopt or use a land transfer tax or impact fee to backfill city revenue to support current commitments, which is how I define a shortfall. While I oppose residential transfer taxes, I am not otherwise categorically opposed to these revenue sources to support unmet and unbudgeted infrastructure needs.

3. **How do you believe Charlotte should fund school capital costs, parks, roads, transit, police and fire protection needs for the city? Should purchasers of new homes be responsible for funding these services for the entire city? Do you believe that these types of proposals are a fair way to pay for required services to existing taxpayers?**

There is no fair way to reverse years of neglected infrastructure needs, neglect I have worked to reverse by hiring all requested police officers and supporting new road construction. I will support zero-based review of the city budget. Having pushed to create the Committee of 21, I support many of their recommendations.

4. **How would you encourage our community's economic growth while including a variety of housing types and prices?**

Economic growth and housing diversity can compliment each other. I supported the Double Oaks revitalization project because it brings new goods and services and income diversity to a challenged area. Transit-oriented development is critical. The Housing 2007 Report contemplates an incentive-based inclusionary zoning ordinance, which I will work to implement.

5. **Recently adopted ordinances and policies have increased development costs and as a result will increase prices for office, industrial and retail space, as well as housing. What could be done to lower development costs in order to prevent families and businesses from relocating across county lines?**

We must streamline the permitting process. I further support placing clear responsibility within the planning director, not other city departments, to reconcile the application of land use ordinances and policies to projects. I would consider relaxing requirements where development promotes affordable housing, environmentally sensitive design or placement within a targeted business corridor.

6. **Charlotte's City Council sets priorities but staff controls work flow. How would you ensure that staff remains, per city code, focused on Council goals and provides a wide variety of solutions to address Council's priorities?**

The mayor, city council, city manager, city residents and community organizations play a role in monitoring issues and assuring that staff works within appropriate parameters. As mayor, I will continue my practice of providing clear direction and demanding accountability from city staff.

7. **Would you support a cost/benefit analysis for existing and proposed land use regulations in order to ensure that the purported benefits outweigh their negative impacts on economic development and housing affordability?**

Yes. In fact, I have supported cost impact studies for proposed ordinances, including the Urban Street Design Guidelines and the Post-Construction Controls. In addition, I have insisted that all perspectives, including affected business stakeholders, be included in formulating city policies.